

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,

NOVEMBER 20, 1820.

Mr. WALKER, of Alabama, submitted the following motions for consideration:

Resolved, That it is expedient to provide for the relief of purchasers of the public lands, by dividing the sums now severally unpaid, exclusive of interest, into equal annual instalments; each instalment bearing interest only from the time at which it shall be made payable.

Resolved, That it is expedient to permit such purchasers of the public lands as may elect that mode, to surrender, within months from and after the day of next, their certificates, which shall be cancelled, and the lands shall be taken to have reverted and become forfeited to the United States, and shall be advertised, and sold for cash, at public auction, to the highest bidder, in the same manner as other public lands. They shall not be sold for less than one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre, which sum shall go to the use of the United States, in addition to the sums already paid; but, if said lands should be so resold for more than one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre, the excess shall be paid to the person surrendering the certificate: provided such excess shall never be greater than the amount actually paid on such lands before such surrender.

Resolved, That it is expedient to permit such purchasers of the public lands as may elect that mode, to extinguish their debt, complete their titles, and demand and receive patents, by paying, within the period of one year, from and after the day of next, into their respective land offices, five eighths of the original price at which their lands were purchased, excluding interest, and computing the moneys already paid as part of the said final payment of five eighths.

Resolved, That it is expedient, in addition to the privilege contemplated in the preceding resolution, to permit such purchasers of the public lands as may elect that mode, at any time within the said period of one year from and after the day of next, to forfeit and abandon to the United States such fractions, quarter sections, and half-quarter sections, as they may deem fit, and to transfer and apply the moneys already paid on the tract or tracts so forfeited to the payment of such other fraction, quarter section, or half-quarter section, as they may choose to retain: and in cases where the purchaser has bought only one quarter section, he shall be permitted to divide it, and make his election between its halves; such division being made by a north and south line, according to law.

